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ACTION L-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 ARA-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00
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R 202105Z APR 94
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0588
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 02813

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
☒ Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 2/27/02 Exemption _____

R

E.O. 12356: DECL:N/A
TAGS: CJAN, PREL, CS, NU
SUBJECT: JOHN HULL IN NICARAGUA RENEWS COSTA RICAN
EXTRADITION INTEREST

REF: SAN JOSE 2648

1. THE COSTA RICAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT AMERICAN
CITIZEN JOHN HULL MAY CURRENTLY BE IN NICARAGUA.
SINCE 1990, HULL'S APPEARANCE HAS BEEN DEMANDED BY A
COSTA RICAN CRIMINAL COURT TO ANSWER CHARGES RANGING
FROM ENEMY ACTS AGAINST COSTA RICA (I.E. HE IS
ACCUSED OF BEING ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS BEHIND THE
1984 LA PENCA BOMBING) TO NARCOTICS-TRAFFICKING.
HULL IS ALLEGED TO HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN SUPPORT OF THE

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NICARAGUAN CONTRAS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, HULL ENTERED NICARAGUA
ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO. HULL REPORTEDLY OWNS PROPERTY
IN THE CHONTALES AREA IN SOUTHERN NICARAGUA AND IS
REGARDED AS SOMETHING OF A LOCAL HERO FOR HIS WORK IN
SUPPORT OF THE HOSPITAL IN JUIGALPA AND FOR HIS HELP
WITH AN EYE CLINIC.

3. LA NACION QUERIED PRESIDENT CALDERON ABOUT THE
HULL CASE ON APRIL 18. CALDERON ANSWERED THAT THE
COSTA RICAN COURT MIGHT MAKE ADDITIONAL EFFORTS TO
SEEK HULL'S EXTRADITION. THE FOLLOWING DAY VICE
FOREIGN MINISTER HERNAN CASTRO CONFIRMED THE GOCR'S
INTENTION TO ASK THE COSTA RICAN EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON TO RE-SUBMIT THE ORIGINAL EXTRADITION
REQUEST.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THE REPORT OF THE LA PENCA

INVESTIGATION COMMISSION (REFTEL), THE EXTRADITION CASE AGAINST JOHN HULL REMAINS ACTIVE. ALTHOUGH HIGH GOCR OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND THAT HULL IS NOT LIKELY TO BE EXTRADITED, THE FACT IS THAT EVERY TIME EITHER HULL OR LA PENCA SURFACE PUBLICLY, THE GOCR FEELS COMPELLED TO GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF ASKING FOR EXTRADITION IN ORDER TO AVOID CRITICISM. IN THIS LATEST INSTANCE, THE ACTUAL REQUEST MAY NOT MATERIALIZE SINCE THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT LEAVES OFFICE ON MAY 8.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED